

the powers within that man move at once toward God. First comes thot, practical thot; then comes action, prompt action."

"If you ask many regular church goers who are steady attendants upon the preaching, the communion table and all the church duties, whether they have experienced the great change of heart necessary to salvation they get flustered, just as if it were not a fair and proper question to ask. Why so? It is because they are simply puffed up like balloons and when you put a straight question like that at them they are punctured and at once collapse. They are only lath and plaster, painted to look like marble."

"There are another class of persons who do not go to church at all. A man says to you with a superior air, 'I am a free thinker. To him we are all slaves, who have swallowed spoon and all, everything that has been given us to eat. The trouble with that man is that he has not swallowed anything. He has done no thinking. Free thinking often means free from thinking. Give us something different for heaven's sake, from the old Tom Paine rubbish. No intelligent skeptic talks this kind of rot any more.'"

"There's an A B C of experimental religion, and you must start with the alphabet. You must be humble. The entrance on to the religious life is lowly and high heads dash their brains against the lintels."

"You must begin to think about yourself. There's a great deal said nowadays about altruism; that we must forget ourselves and care for the welfare of others. I've been a long way around the world and I have always found that the men who do good to others are those who, in the old fashioned way, first get saved themselves."

"What clap-trap it is to say it is a dark way and no one knows anything about it. It is upsetting to see dupes of the devil going about Pittsburg saying, 'What a dark world it is.' 'Men can tell whether they are going to hell or heaven.'"

"We are all born wrong, with our backs to God and we must be turned. I still hold with our Baxter that it is 'Turn or burn.' Do it or the world will fling you aside like a sucked orange when it is done with you."

"My dear friends, the devil might pity you, if he had any pity in his heart, for the way he dupes you. You see others ruined, but think you will be smart and escape. You think you can put your fingers into the pitch without getting them blackened. O ye dupes of the devil, don't you know that it is the devil's trump card to make you think that you can go to the saloon, to the gambling table, to the harlot's house, and still come out unscratched?"

A BEACON LIGHT

ALVIN BYERS

The church is an honor to God and a glory to man. It is like a city set on a hill—it cannot be hid. When we speak of the church we mean Christ and his followers. They have been a mighty power in the world's

civilization. They have made this nation what it is today. There is still room for improvement in the moral, the social, and the political affairs of our land that would increase the health, wealth, strength, and happiness of man. The church is still at work condemning sin in high and in low places, trying to uplift mankind to a nobler and a better life; everything that has been for the uplifting of man has come to pass thru the influence of the church. She is the chief glory of our land, and has for her watchword, excelsior, which means forward, onward, and upward.

The church makes no drunkards, no liars, no robbers, no fighters, no hypocrites, no devils, but helps people forward, onward, and upward, according to her watchword, to a noble life in Christ.

The church is the body of Christ, of whom it is said, "In him is no darkness at all." As the moon and the stars get their light from the sun, all Christians get their light from Christ and are to shine in his stead for the prevention of degradation and for the reclaiming of the degraded. The church is progressing in the light of the gospel in proportion as each individual member leaves his or her light shine and the darkness of this world is disappearing in proportion as the light of the gospel is spreading. Every member should be a star in the church, not flickering, but shining brightly, reflecting the glory of Christ that the world can readily see the "true light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Standing in the light of Christ our king we are a blessing instead of an injury to the world even though some do frown upon us and say we are false.

When we are living in the church Jesus is very close to us and

"Heaven is not far away,
When Jesus is near;
Place your trust in him dear friend,
He will keep you to the end,
Heaven is not far away
When Jesus is near."

In speaking of the church we mean the church visible and invisible. The invisible has a wonderful influence in the visible in making it a beacon light to the world.

We are passing one by one from the church militant, to the church triumphant. May we all live and act as we wish we had lived and acted when life's journey is over that we may be a blessing while we live and that our works may follow us to the honor and to the glory of God. A Christian in the body or absent from it, being present with the Lord, wields a mighty influence for good in the world.

We have stood by a casket wherein lay the remains of one of God's children a number of times whose works are following them today making the church a blessing to the children of men.

In a little country graveyard not far from our home in Pennsylvania, there is a little mound of earth underneath which lie the remains that fell from a living soul as she

stepped into the chariot of angels bound for eternity's shore to dwell in her home in the land of light. She is near and dear to my heart. Whatever may be said of her life, the dying words compose a sentence that we shall never forget: "Mother I am trusting in the Lord."

When in the dark and lonely hours of my life while serving my home congregation as pastor she would sing for me in a cheerful way that beautiful hymn:

"I must tell Jesus all of my trials,
I cannot bear these burdens alone;
In my distress he kindly will help me,
He ever loves and cares for his own."

In the midst of a complex social life sometimes cast down with sorrows and troubles that are found along the path of a pastor as he goes in and out among his people; while those feet have ceased to walk and those fingers have ceased to touch the keys of the organ and that sweet voice is stilled there comes to my heart one sweet strain:

"I must tell Jesus,
Jesus can help me,
Jesus alone."

The ministering spirits of little children who have gone to their home beyond the sky with whom we have associated in the Sunday-school, still speak to us in gentle tones "Sweet peace the gift of God's love." Many are the ministering spirits of heaven that are speaking to the friends of earth today calling them to a higher and a nobler life. The influence of the church triumphant together with Christ our living head in all things make the church militant the chief glory of our land. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

My prayer is that whether we be in the body or out of it we may always be found in the presence of the Lord and instruments in his hands to help spread the "gospel of Christ which is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;" and that some day we may strike the harps of gold and shine forth as the sun in the realms of a pure and perfect paradise where God and man shall find an unbroken joy and rest in one another.

Louisville, Ohio.

COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE

J. O. TALLEY

Gospel alone—and the whole gospel. Acts 20: 27; I Cor. 2: 2.

The age in which we are living is rent with divisions, even among honest people of God, and it is in precisely this particular that the Brethren Church has a mission not occupied by any other body of believers. We are not working to establish any particular theory of atonement, resurrection, justification, or judgment, but all those teachings, i. e., the whole gospel—God Spell—of Christ. To those who have not given much thought to